

# The Farmington Times

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## TAX EVASION

In spite of the fact that government is the only security of property rights we have, and that government depends for its support upon the taxes levied upon the property of its citizens, there are many people who resort to almost any sort of subterfuge, even to the extent of perjury, to escape paying taxes on a large part of their wealth. This is commonly known by the homely but expressive term "tax-dodging", and it is not generally thought to be very reputable. But the practice has become so universal among our very rich as to be regarded not only as excusable but commendable shrewdness. This evasion on the part of the rich to bear their full share of the support of government makes the burden of taxation fall more heavily on the ordinary well-to-do and people of small means, whose wealth is largely represented by visible property which the assessor can easily list and which cannot be hid away in safety deposit boxes. It would be difficult to estimate to what extent this crime of tax-dodging is practiced, as it is only occasionally that the facts are exposed to the light of publicity, generally through the settlement of some prominent wealthy man's estate after he has "shuffled off this mortal coil", and then little more than cursory comment is made upon it and it is soon forgotten.

It not infrequently occurs that men who have stood high among their fellowmen, who have been looked up to as men of exemplary character and rectitude, who have been in human judgment deemed worthy of emulation by our youth, and have been marked for positions of public trust and honor, are unmasked when death places its seal upon them and their estates come to be probated. One does not like to dwell upon the subject, even to point a moral or to suggest a reform. "Speak no ill of the dead" is a sentiment we are disposed to hold sacred. But do we not owe it to truth and the promotion of honorable manhood to let the living know that the dishonest practices and deceptions of their lives are sure to be brought into the light some time and rest as a blur on the good name which they are so careful to guard when living?

In the inventory of the estate of the late Richard C. Kerens of St. Louis his taxable personal property aggregated \$2,089,263. In 1915 he returned to the assessor only \$12,000 as the value of his taxable personal property, thus evading the payment of taxes on over two millions. This was only one year. How long he kept up the practice and how much in taxes he had thus escaped one may not say. Mr. Kerens was one of St. Louis' most honored and respected citizens. He was a national leader in his political party and stood high in the estimation of his fellowmen—was even counted worthy to represent his Government as Ambassador to Austria-Hungary; and yet the post-mortem light thrown on his character shows that he was a tax-dodger, that he deceptively withheld from the government that gave security and protection to his wealth his rightful proportion of the support of that government. The effect is apparent. Every tax-dodger who thus evades his own burden of taxation places a proportionate additional burden on the honest taxpayer—on the man whose property is visible and cannot be hidden.

We have not mentioned Mr. Kerens' name in this connection for the purpose of discrediting his character. But his case is one that has just come to light through the publicity given the inventory of his estate, and because of the high estimation in which he was, and, for that matter, is held, we have cited it only to show how universal must be the practice of tax-evasion among those of our rich people much of whose wealth is represented in bonds, stocks, notes and other evidences of wealth that may be hidden away from the assessor and tax-gatherer.

If those who are reputed to constitute our best and most substantial people do such things, what a commentary the fact is on our honesty as a people!

Wm. R. Painter, retiring Lieutenant Governor, has been appointed by Governor Gardner as temporary Warden of the Penitentiary, to succeed D. G. McClung, whose time has expired. It is just such appointments as this that will put the present administration

on the high road of success. Mr. Painter's appointment should be made permanent, as he is just the man to obliterate further criticism of that institution. Should we ever be "called" that way, we know that we would receive the best possible treatment the circumstances would warrant under "Bill" Painter's administration.

## NON-PARTISAN FOLDEROL

We hear a good deal of talk about non-partisan and bi-partisan public boards and commissions for this or that purpose. From our view point we see little virtue or advantage to the public in such alleged reform attempts.

As to non-partisan boards or commissions, we don't believe there is any such thing or can be under our political system of government. Where the people or many rule, there is of necessity divergent views and convictions as to fundamentals, and hence political organizations or parties naturally spring into existence. Political parties represent fundamental principles or policies of government, and there is no place for non-partisans where these principles are involved. Therefore, the public officers elected by any party to carry out the policies for which it stands, in filling appointive positions on public boards or commissions, weaken them by placing men in such positions who hold different convictions, or no known convictions at all, as to these policies.

To say that men who are non-partisan—that is, have no decided preference for the underlying principles of one political party or the other—would prove more efficient, honest or loyal to the public good, is absurd. Their partisanship or natural prejudice would crop out large and persistent whenever any question arose to excite it. To say that a man of decided partisan convictions would not be equally capable, honest and loyal to the general weal, is altogether absurd.

And the so-called bi-partisan boards or commissions would not be any more capable and conscientious in discharging their duties than those where there is a preponderating representation of the party in power. There must come a time, too, in all such boards when a clash over some question of party policy or advantage thrusts itself upon their deliberations. The result is an equally divided board—for bi-partisan means an equal number of some two parties—a dead-lock would ensue and nothing would be accomplished one way or the other; and the question might be one of imminent importance. Whether it be an alleged non-partisan or bi-partisan board the partisan feeling from which no intelligent Democrat or Republican, Prohibitionist or Socialist, can wholly divorce himself, will naturally assert itself.

To our mind, the public boards or commissions which have a preponderating representation on them of the party in power, are just as safe, capable and loyal to the public good as any non-partisan or bi-partisan board or commission that could be formed. On all questions not involving party policy there would be no cause for division on party lines—they would be decided on their merits according to the views of a majority of the acting board. On questions involving in some particular party policy, they would be decided by the majority members and their party would shoulder the responsibility. If they proved to be against public sentiment the people would call the responsible party to account.

The principal thing is to get honest, capable, progressive men on all boards and commissions, but it is foolishness to so constitute them as to block the policy of the party in power on some, to it, vital point. It isn't in accord with human nature, good politics or representative government—for be it remembered ours is a political and a representative government.

## LAMM CONTEST THROWN OUT

Majority and minority reports of the Election Contest Committee to which was referred the petition of Judge Lamm to the Legislature asking it to take up a contest on his part against the election of Governor Gardner, were made to a joint session of the Legislature last Tuesday. The majority report was against the contest and was sustained by a strict party vote of 103 to 71. The minority report contended that the contest

had not been filed in good faith, was not supported by a majority of the State Republican Committee, and that it would interfere materially with important legislation.

Thus ends the Lamm gubernatorial contest—all except the howl of assumed virtuous indignation that will go up from Republican partisan organs, although not one of them really believes that Governor Gardner was not justly elected. There may have been, and no doubt were, specific instances of fraud or irregularity in the election—not pronounced enough, however, to make any difference in the result—but the sweeping charge of wholesale fraud set forth in Lamm's petition was too all-embracing to convince any one of the petitioners' sincerity or belief in the truth thereof. Indeed, such universal condition of fraud could not have existed without a general understanding and conspiracy between the Democratic and Republican judges and clerks of election of every ward precinct in the city of St. Louis. That is too preposterous on its face to be entertained for a moment, and brands the whole movement with insincerity and an attempt to stir up partisan strife and rancor.

## SKY-SCRAPING PAPER

### PRICES PUNCTURED—NIT

A large gathering of newspaper men were in attendance at the meeting of the Missouri Press Association, which held its meeting in the Planters hotel last Friday. The meeting had been called for the purpose of trying to afford relief for the absolute distress that is being experienced by the newspapers generally throughout the State, which has already resulted in the suspension of several publications.

The fact was developed that similar conditions exist everywhere as to the abnormal price of news print, except in regard to the large metropolitan papers, which continue to get their supply at about half the price for which the country publisher is held up. The general opinion of all those present was that the prices for which they are being "held up" was nothing less than highway robbery.

The result of the meeting was the appointment of a committee of country publishers to meet with a large paper manufacturer, who was present, and the President of the Graham Paper Co. The only result of such conference was the submission of a "compromise" proposition, which proved to contain no abatement in prices, and was voted down by the Association with considerable energy. The result was that the newspaper men decided to "fight" for a reduction in the price of news print, and a resolution was adopted asking Attorney General McAllister to investigate the situation and see whether or not there is a combination on in this State, in restraint of legitimate trade, between the paper manufacturers and jobbers, and if so, to stand solidly with him in their prosecution to the fullest extent of the law.

The manufacturers, as well as the jobbers, claim that they are getting only their usual profits from the making and handling of news print. If their statements are true, then the "robber" certainly occupies an unfathomable position, as no consumer at this time is aware that any other person, corporation or "thing" has its talons on the news print supply. Anyway, there is an unjust discrimination in the fact that the country publisher cannot supply his needs without paying about twice the price that is charged the larger users of news print. A Federal board has for some time past been investigating into the cause of the present "hold-up" prices of paper, but even such "investigation" has apparently been unable to locate the "Joker in the deck."

A resolution was also adopted authorizing President Jack Blanton to appoint a committee to appear before the present session of the Missouri Legislature and attempt to get that body to see the advantage and importance of establishing a paper mill by the State, in which, it was suggested, convict labor could be advantageously employed. The fact remains that unless the present news print conditions are soon relieved other publications—perhaps many of them—will be compelled to suspend publication.

## WHAT THEY ARE FIGHTING FOR

The reply of the Entente Allies to President Wilson's note asking for a definite statement of the concrete objects of the war and the conditions on which peace might be restored, is a clear and open avowal of their purposes, though drastic and herculean in scope. They of course place the responsibility of the war on Germany and Austria-Hungary to insure their predominating influence over Europe and economic domination of the world. The Central Powers, Germany and her allies, being responsible for the war, having outraged treaty rites, the principles of humanity and all respect due small

er States, as the Entente allege, they must now make reparation for the wrongs they have done, and the Entente set out in their note to the President what they demand and will insist upon as the terms upon which they will enter into peace negotiations.

The Entente declare that "their objects in the war will not be made known in detail, with all the equitable compensations and indemnities for damages suffered, until the hour of negotiation, but they say frankly what their principal objects are, and they would assuredly, if successful, make a new map of Europe and reduce Germany and Austria-Hungary to negative powers.

Here is their objective, in concise form, as set forth in their note: Restoration of Belgium, Serbia, Montenegro and the indemnities due them; evacuation of the invaded territories of France and Russia with just remuneration; reorganization of Europe with guarantees of national rights to all nations, small or great, and to land and sea frontiers against unjust attack; the restitution of provinces or territories wrested in the past from the Allies by force or against the will of their peoples; the liberation of Italians, Slavs, Roumanians and other peoples from foreign domination; the enfranchisement of populations subject to the bloody tyranny of the Turks, and the expulsion of the Ottoman or Turkish Empire from Europe.

That is certainly a clear statement, and if but half insisted upon shows the prospects for peace far into the future. If successfully carried out Germany and Austria-Hungary would be shorn of their vaunted prestige, the dream of Pan-Germanism would have a rude awakening, and Prussian militarism would be stripped of its gold lace and autocratic bearing. While the Entente are free to own that this is their objective and desire, they declare that it is not their purpose, as has been alleged, "to compass the extermination of the German peoples and their political disappearance."

The Central Powers, on the other hand, protest in effect that they had to take up arms in defense of their liberty and existence, but just how these were menaced were not set forth. They defend their invasion of Belgium and violation of her treaty rights as a measure "in the interest of military safety," and argue to the effect that they had the right to overrun and make war on Belgium because that Government would not consent to German troops marching peaceably through her territory to get at France, a nation with which Belgium was at peace. They also cite numerous instances of violations of international law and usages on the part of the Entente, yet in no way do they make clear, or attempt to do so, why they went to war or what they are now contending for; nor do they name any explicit terms on which peace might be reached. Altogether the German note is not a happy effort at enlisting neutral sympathy or convincing the world that the Central Powers had just provocation for war.

Judge Landis of the United States District Court dismissed, for want of equity, on the 13th inst., a petition of 28 railroad companies asking that Illinois be enjoined from enforcing the 2-cent a mile passenger rate. It seems that the Interstate Commerce Commission had ordered a 2.4 cents a mile fare to relieve discrimination in railroad passenger rates. The decision upholds the authority of a State to fix railroad rates within its own borders, and declares that the Interstate Commerce Commission has no earthly power to repeal a State law under the guise of relieving certain points from discrimination. Judge Landis says the railroads could have relieved the discrimination by reducing the interstate rate.

## WHY FLOUR IS HIGH

Crop statisticians of the Department of Agriculture at Washington say that the crop of wheat this year is 6 bushel compared to 10 bushels last year. The crop of 1914 was more than a billion bushels, followed in 1915 with another billion bushels; 1916, the crop as near as can be estimated was 607,000,000 bushels, or 400,000,000 less than the previous year. For the year ending June, 1916, there was exported 173,000,000 bushels, flour not included, but at this writing no figures are at hand to show quantity shipped out of the country. The United States, for seed and consumption, needs over 600,000,000 bushels annually. Acreage devoted to wheat-growing varies between 45,000,000 and 50,000,000. To a barrel of flour weighing 196 pounds there is 4 1-2 bushels of wheat, or 270 pounds—from this there is also a by-product of 74 pounds mostly bran.

The principal wheat producing countries shown by the figures for the year 1915 are: The United States with a crop of 1,011,500,000 bushels; the Russian Empire, except Poland, with a crop of 761,550,000 bushels; British India, whose crop was 376,731,000 bushels; Canada, with 376,304,000 bushels; France, with 258,000,000 bushels; Italy, with 170,500,000 bushels, and Spain, with 189,000,000 bushels. Argentine produced last year 168,000,000 bushels, with extensive wheat lands still uncultivated.



## Your Own Home

is your castle. That's where you'll want to take your bride and make your little nest. Begin now to save a part of your earnings and it "won't seem any time" until you have funds to buy some property and take your place as a substantial citizen.

Start a Savings Account With Us and Draw Interest on It

ST. FRANCOIS COUNTY BANK

## THE WORKMEN'S

### COMPENSATION BILL

In a letter published recently a lawyer who opposes the Workmen's Compensation law charges that under it the insurance companies would reap enormous profits, and implies that the actual amounts paid the injured workman or his representatives in case of death would be greatly reduced because of the insurance cost.

The Post-Dispatch has already called attention to the fact that the Workmen's Compensation Commission, having in mind the necessity of insurance, has drawn up a Mutual Insurance Bill, to be submitted along with the compensation law. Under this proposed mutual insurance law any five or more individuals, partners or corporations employing in the aggregate of 500 or more workers can organize as a mutual insurance company for the purpose of insuring the members of such company on the mutual plan against liability for injury or property of their employees, or for death caused thereby.

With this law enacted there will be no need for employers to go outside their own ranks for insurance. Mutual insurance can be had at actual cost.

But even with the ordinary brand of insurance, it is not true that the amounts paid the injured worker or his representatives in case of death would be diminished in order to meet cost of insurance. The payments to the worker or his representatives are fixed by the law and payable without reduction.

The bill now before the Legislature has been drawn up, by mutual consent, after numerous conferences between representatives of employers, employees, the bar, the insurance interests, the medical profession, and the general public, lasting since May, 1916. It is based on model laws that have been found satisfactory in other States. It ought to pass.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

## STEAMBOAT TRAVEL SAFEST.

Looking for a safe place to spend next summer? Try a steamboat. Safest place there is. Last year about 200 steamboats wheeled and snorted back and forth between Cairo, Ill., and somewhere up this side of the North Pole and carried 1,931,856 passengers. That is getting pretty close to 2,000,000. A pretty big crowd. And how many do you suppose lost their lives? Not one.

There was one man drowned, but it was not the fault of any steamboat. He jumped overboard. The steamboat people did their best to save him, but he went down before help could reach him.

From first to last 680,831 St. Louisians went down to the landing and sailed away up river and down river on the Mississippi boats. And they all came back. And not one was even hurt.

The steamboats that ply these upper rivers are not always things of beauty. They certainly are not fast. Sometimes we call them tubs and say playful sarcastic things about them. But they take us there and bring us back. The annual report of the Supervising Inspector-General, Steamboat Inspection Service, Washington, D. C., shows that.

And it's safe. That's the main thing. If she sinks you sit on the Texas as comfy as on the veranda at home. If she burns the pilot holds her nozzle agin the bank till the last galoot's ashore. Merely diverting episodes on a trip that might without them be monotonous. You live to tell about them, and there is a lot of comfort in that.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

## ESTRAY NOTICE

Strayed off the range, 2 yearlings, one black steer and one brindle heifer. Both marked with split in left and under-half crop in right ears; hog ring in right ears. Liberal reward for information leading to their recovery. Geo. S. Matkin, Bismarck, Mo.

## MR. ANTWINE ON LEAKS

"Why should we go on breaking our backs trying to find out how Wall Street got its tip on the President's note?" Mr. Antwine asked.

"If we are to have the women in politics, state secrets are so many dead ducks anyway, and I don't know of any reason why we shouldn't abandon them right now. There is already one woman in Congress, the appearance of woman everywhere in the Government service is only a matter of a few years, and it seems absurd to make such an effort as we are making to preserve something we know we can't have after the women get in anyway."

"Possibly, if our wives were present, they would not enjoy this—but I want to tell you something about state secrets. Some of the best political minds of the world today are against them. It has been repeatedly pointed out that if everything which passed between the European Powers before the war broke out had been open and above board in the full knowledge of the people of those countries, there would not have been any war."

"It is the state secret which enables international disputes to get out of the people's hands before there is any chance to adjust them. Diplomats go as far as they like. If their indiscretions result in war, the people go out and do the fighting."

"Maybe the appearance in politics of woman, who can't keep a secret, is to be the end of this tyranny. It will just stop automatically, as like as not."—"Just a Minute" in the Post-Dispatch.

## FARMINGTON AMAZED BY SUDDEN ACTION

The incredible action of simple lavoptik eye wash is startling. A school boy had eye strain so badly he could not read. A week's use of lavoptik surprised his teacher so much that she used it for her old mother. ONE WASH showed benefit. A small bottle lavoptik is guaranteed to help EVERY CASE weak, strained or inflamed eyes. THE INCREDIBLE results are astonishing. Pure aluminum eye cup FREE with each bottle. W. E. Aubuchon, druggist, Franklay, Mo. (adv.)

## NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO THE LEGISLATURE FOR THE ENACTMENT OF LOCAL LAW

Notice is hereby given of application to the Legislature of Missouri for the enactment of a local law to pay F. M. Carter of Farmington, Missouri, the sum of Three Hundred Dollars for holding thirty days of the November term of the Circuit Court of St. Francois County, Missouri, for 1897, as Special Judge, commencing November 15th, 1897, and ending February 23rd, 1898, being Ten Dollars per day.

Signed by us, the following named Ten Householders of St. Francois County, Missouri, this 18th day of January, 1917.

J. C. ALEXANDER.  
H. M. O'BANNON.  
ED. BYINGTON.  
GEO. HALTER.  
P. A. SHAW.  
B. L. BYINGTON.  
L. H. WILLIAMS.  
C. H. ADAMS.  
E. J. MCKINNEY.  
A. J. HILTON.

## THE NEW WAY

If your Watch or Jewelry is out of repair, send it by parcel post to te old reliable Jeweler,

H. L. ADAMS,

Elvins, Mo., have same repaired and returned to you, without delay, by parcel post.

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